FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 SEPTEMBER 1986

Israel

Peres-Shevardnadze Talks — Prime Minister Shim'on Peres commented on his talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio and television, describing the meeting as "the beginning of a dialogue" and disclosing that "contacts will continue in different ways." The two sides agreed to think about each other's proposals, he said, and they decided to check whether there are ways leading to normalization of Israeli-Soviet relations. He viewed the dialogue as an opportunity to explain Israel's position to the new Soviet leadership, which is "definitely displaying interest" in joining the Middle East peace process. Peres also commented favorably on the "extremely relaxed and matter-of-fact atmosphere" at the talks.

Reporting on the meeting, TASS said that Shevardnadze expressed the USSR's "deep concern" over the continuing conflict in the Middle East, telling Peres that Israel's long-term interests would best be served by "renouncing the expansionist line in favor of a just settlement." He also called for the establishment of a preparatory committee to facilitate the convocation of an international conference.

Buildup on Lebanese Border — Israel has concentrated hundreds of soldiers along the border with Lebanon in order to support the Army of Southern Lebanon (ASL), the Israeli paper *Ha'aretz* reported 23 September. The Israelis have reinforced ASL positions with heavy artillery and have sent an armored brigade to the border area, Beirut radio disclosed, noting that the Amal movement has declared a state of maximum alert among its forces in southern Lebanon. Nevertheless, a senior IDF source cited by Jerusalem radio stressed that Israel has no intention of permanently deploying large forces in its security zone in southern Lebanon, and he indicated that current moves are "tactical" and of limited duration. The radio also broadcast Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remark that Israel will do its utmost to bring about a total and painful defeat to those who attack the ASL.

In another report on Lebanon, a senior IDF source cited by Jerusalem radio stated that Sabri al-Banna, alias Abu Nidal, has established a new base in the Palestinian quarter at 'Ayn al-Hulwah, near Sidon. Al-Banna himself is spending most of his time in Libya, according to the source, who reaffirmed the Israeli view that Al-Banna's men were responsible for the Pan Am hijacking and the attack on the Istanbul synagogue.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi military spokesman cited by Voice of the Masses radio stated that Iraqi troops repulsed two Iranian attacks on Iraqi positions on the eastern bank of the southern Majnun oil field. The Iraqis destroyed boats carrying the attacking infantry, most of whom were killed or captured, the spokesman said.

Syria

Voice of Lebanon radio reported that gunfire was heard in Damascus 19 September in celebration of Vice President Rif'at al-Asad's return to Syria after a long stay in Europe. An explosion occurred near a Ba'th Party center in the capital the following day, the radio said, and two other explosions were heard in Aleppo.

Sudan

Relations With Uganda — A Sudanese-Ugandan joint communique cited by Kampala radio announced that the two countries have agreed on measures to control their common border and prevent rebel Ugandan soldiers from crossing into Uganda from Sudan. The agreement, which was reached during Interior Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn's visit to Kampala, provides for the removal of Ugandan refugees from border areas and for the establishment of four joint committees to deal with border problems. Commenting on the outcome of his talks with President Yoweri Museveni and other Ugandan officials, Al-Husayn told SUNA that Uganda has agreed to reopen the border. During the talks Museveni informed the Sudanese side of the circumstances which led to the closure of the border, he noted, and the Sudanese condemned the cross-border attacks, stressing Sudan's desire for good-neighborly relations.

SPLA Activity — Although a military source cited by Omdurman radio stated that the Sudanese Army repulsed an SPLA attack on Kapoeta 21 September, the SPLA's clandestine radio claimed that the SPLA has "virtually burned down the entire town of Kapoeta," killing over 70 government troops. Further north, SPLA forces killed 126 government militiamen in a 13 September clash near Nasir, the SPLA radio maintained.

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Appreciation Decrees Issued on Sarandoy Day
LD201936 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Sep 86

[Text] The Secretariat of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium reports that the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium has approved the following decrees on the eve of 1 October, DRA Sarandoy Day, in order to show appreciation for the important role of Sarandoy in the defense of the revolution's gains and in order to enhance the moral level of Sarandoy's employees and make outstanding the role of the men of its units and companies who had played a valuable part in consolidating combat and political capability. These decrees are effective from the date of approval and will be published in the official gazetteer.

1. A decree on an emblem for the Ministry of the Interior, its promulgation, and its wording; it is aimed at the further growth of the training of the Ministry of Interior's employees for a high combat spirit and the creation of a spirit of honor among them.

2. A decree on the title of the outstanding of the Ministry of Interior, its promulgation explanation of the medal; this is aimed at further improving the training of the Interior Ministry's employees for a high combat standard, distinguishing those ministry employees who had shown bravery and heroism in ensuring peace and carrying out combat operations against the DRA's enemies, who had been at a high level of political and combat readiness, who had been models in learning the party style, style of weapon and combat protection, and who had observed military discipline in the appropriate manner.

'Number of' Rebels in Nangarhar Province 'Eliminated'
LD191108 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 19 Sep 86

[Excerpt] Kabul, September 18, BAKHTAR: As a result of successful operations of the Armed Forces of the DRA in the suburbs of grand District of Sorkh Rud in Nangarhar Province, a number of counterrevolutionaries who were disturbing the peaceful life of the residents of that area, were totally eliminated.

During the operation, a missile launcher, a mortar with 380 rounds of bullets, 54 cases of cartridges, 69 antivehicle and anti-personnel mines, and 35 cases of ammunition were confiscated. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces Discover 'Slaughterhouse' in Herat
LD220641 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Text] Kabul, September 21, BAKHTAR: A political observer of BAKHTAR writes:

A horrific slaughterhouse of the Afghan counterrevolution was detected in the suburbs of Herat Province as a result of the mopping up operation of the Armed Forces of the DRA.

Dismembered bodies of the murdered people were found hung on the walls in this terrible slaughterhouse same as it was earlier seen in the slaughterhouse of criminal Ahmad Shah in Panjshir.

Our countrymen are not ignorant of the crimes of the counterrevolution, but it is to be pointed out that the U.S. imperialism and its treacherous allies are impudently trying to show the crimes of the counterrevolution as part of the so-called holy war on the path of Islam and to justify their illegal interventions and aggressions into the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

The Western press from time to time raises hues and cries that Islam is in danger in Afghanistan or Afghanistan has been allegedly occupied by the Soviet Union. All the crimes committed by the counterrevolution are attributed to the state of Afghanistan and to the limited contingents of the Soviet Union.

Our countrymen remember that a number of counterrevolutionaries in a press conference in Kabul revealed that foreign instructors who call themselves journalists and physicians by dressing in the Soviet Army's uniforms are preparing forged films with the help of the counterrevolution for defaming the revolution of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

Karachi: Mujahidin Attack Military Posts, Camp
BK221047 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin attacked the Soviet-Kabul security posts of (Qala Zaman), Qala Jangi, and (Makroyan) areas by missiles and heavy guns, inflicting severe losses on them. In Morchal area, the mujahidin destroyed four tanks and armored vehicles and set on fire the major portion of a military camp there. They also destroyed the security post in (Baghrami) area in the east of Kabul.

Ershad Says Presidential Elections on Schedule
BK211608 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 21 Sep 86

[Text] President Ershad has reiterated that presidential elections will be held on the 15th of next month as scheduled to complete the process of setting up an elected government. At a grand rally of the Jatiya Swechasevak [National Volunteers] Party in Dhaka today, he said the 100 million people of the country want elections to return to democracy. He deplored the opposition move to thwart it by hartals [strikes]. He said the people should resist any attempt by any quarter to obstruct the coming election. The president said what is needed now in the country is an atmosphere of peace and stability for uniterrupted development. People want their economic emancipation.

About the Swechasevak Party, he said its members are ideal and disciplined youth. He lauded their role in various nation-building activities.

Prime Mister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Deputy Prime Ministers M.A. Matin and Kazi Zafar Ahmed also spoke on the occasions. In their speeches, they stressed the need for maintaining peaceful atmosphere for holding presidential elections smoothly next month.

Presidential Candidates To Get 'Some Facilities'
BK220218 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Excerpt] The government has decided to provide some facilities to the candidates contesting the presidential election scheduled for the 15th of next month. The decision was arrived at a meeting of the Council of Ministers held at Banga Bhavan in Dhaka last evening. President Ershad presided. The facilities to the presidential candidates include adequate coverage on radio and television and VIP treatment. They will also be provided with telephone facilities, free travel by rail, and free accommodation for 10 persons, a jeep with petrol and driver, and arrangements for their protection. The facilities will be effective from the day of withdrawal of nomination papers to the day of election. [passage omitted]

12 Candidates To Run in Presidential Election
BK221629 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Text] Four candidates have withdrawn their candidature of the presidential election scheduled to be held on the 15th of next month. The candidates who withdrew their candidature on the last day today are: Abul Khair Mohammad Shamsul Huda, Alhaj Maulana Sheikh Mohammad Obaidullah ibn Said Jalalabadi, Alhaj Khandokar Azizul Haq, and Malika Begum.

There are now 12 candidates in the field to participate in the coming presidential election. They are: 1) Waliul Islam Chowdhury Sukku Mian; 2) Alhaj Maulana Khairul Islam Jessori; 3) Alhaj Major, retired, Mohammad Afsaruddin; 4) Mohammad Ansar Ali; 5) Mohammadullah Hafezji Huzoor; 6) Mohammad Khalilur Rahman Majumdar; 7) Mohammad Abdus Samad; 8) Mohammad Zahir Khan; 9) Lieutenant Colonel, retired, Syed Farooq Rahman; 10) Syed Munirul Huda Chowdhury; 11) Squadron leader, retired, Muazzam Hussain Chowdhury; and 12) Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

The Election Commission will allocate symbols to the contesting candidates tomorrow morning.

Zambian Prime Minister Begins 13-Day Visit

BK221045 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Text] The Zambian prime minister, Mr Musokotwane, arrived in New Delhi today from Bombay on a 13-day visit to the country. He was received at the airport by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and others. Mr Musokotwane is leading a 30-member delegation which includes the minister of commerce and industry and the minister of state for finance. Immediately on arrival, the visiting dignatory called on the president, Giani Zail Singh, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house]. He will have talks with the prime minister in the afternoon.

Mr Gandhi will host a dinner in honor of Mr Musokotwane tonight. During his 3-day stay in the capital, the Zambian prime minister will visit the Indian Agricultural Research Institute and the National Small Industries Corporation. He will also visit seven other Indian cities.

Holds Talks With Rajiv Gandhi

BK221623 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has reiterated India's support to the Frontline States in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. The assurance was given during talks between the Indian and Zambian delegations in New Delhi today. The Zambian delegation led by the prime minister, Mr Musokotwane, arrived in New Delhi on a 13-day visit. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was assisted by the ministers of state, Mr Eduardo Faleiro, Mr Yogendra Makwana, Mr Natwar Singh, and Mr Gadgil.

During the 90-minute discussion, the two sides reviewed the situation in South Africa. There was a similarity of views on South African issues. Both sides reaffirmed the commitment to strengthen India-Zambia friendship. Mr Rajiv Gandhi expressed admiration for the leadership of President Kenneth Kaunda. The Zambian prime minister admired the leadership provided by India as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement. He appreciated Mr Rajiv Gandhi's commitment to the struggle of the people of South Africa even after India ceased to be chairman of Nonaligned Movement. He also appreciated the courage and commitment of Mr Gandhi to the cause of peace, unity, and cooperation among developing countries. An official spokesman said the two sides discussed a number of areas for increasing bilateral cooperation. These include agriculture, small-scale industries, and training facilities for Zambian cadres in India. Specific projects for cooperation will be discussed between the senior officials of the two countries. [passage omitted]

Attends Banquet Hosted by Gandhi

BK230338 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 23 Sep 86

[Text] The prime minister has expressed confidence that mandatory sanctions against South Africa will hasten the process of wiping out apartheid. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was speaking at a banquet given in honor of the visiting Zambian prime minister, Mr Kebby Musokotwane, in New Delhi last night. Mr Gandhi said it is heartening that international public opinion against apartheid is growing even in countries who are reluctant to apply sanctions against Pretoria.

Referring to protests in South Africa, Mr Gandhi said it is reaching a decisive point. The majority will themselves put an end to the outrage against the millions South Africans. This outrage, he said, has gone on too long and must end. Mr Rajiv Gandhi reaffirmed the Nonaligned Movement's full support to the people of South Africa, Namibia, and the Frontline States in their battle against brute force.

Referring to Indo-Zambian cooperation in economic, technological, and educational fields, the prime minister said both countries have taken care over the years to strengthen this relationship.

Earlier, the minister of state for industries, Mr Arunachalam, held talks with his Zambian counterpart. Mr (Keraducca). Mr Arunachalam assured India's help to Zambia in the field of industrial development, especially the small scale sector. The Zambian minister evinced keen interest in obtaining Indian expertise and services of Indian personnel.

Radio Views Gurkhaland Agitation, Gandhi Stand

BK221440 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Station commentary by political commentator S.C. Bhatt]

[Text] Much media attention has been received lately by an agitation in the Darjeeling District of West Bengal state in eastern India. Led by a retired Indian Army sargeant, Subhash Ghisingh, the agitation seeks to establish so-called Gurkhaland state of Indian citizens of Nepali origin. There have been violent incidents off and on when supporters of the agitation clashed with the police or members of the Communist Party of India-Marxists — CPI-M — which is the dominant party in the left-front government of West Bengal.

Both before India became free some 40 years ago and after that, the India-Nepal border has been an open one. Many people from Nepal came and settled in this country and became part and parcel of the multilingual, multireligious, and multiethnic society of India. Because of Darjeeling District's proximity to Nepal, its hilly terrain which is akin to the terrain of much of Nepal and other factors, many of the Indian citizens of Nepali origin are to be found in that district. The center of the region is, of course, the picturesque and [word indistinct] hill town of Darjeeling, famous for the tea named after it and for the breathtaking view of the world's second highest mountain, Kanchenjunga, in the Himalayas.

But in recent months, the hills have been restless and there are fewer tourists going to Darjeeling, although the tea continues to be produced and packed for nearby Calcutta, the Bengal's capital, and faraway London among other places. Mr Ghisingh has mobilized his followers for one agitation after another and caught

the attention of the people from other parts of the country and of course of West Bengal state by his teachings and activities.

He is not only demanding a state of Gurkhaland but also has been asking for annulment of some clauses in the treaty of friendship between India and Nepal. On the second issue, his contention is that by permitting Nepali citizens free entry into India and equal rights with Indians, the treaty makes no distinction between Indian citizens of Nepali origin and the Nepali immigrants. The name Gurkha itself is of Nepali origin. The Gurkhas are a section of the people in Nepal who are famous for their excellent fighting qualities. Even now under an agreement between India and Nepal, Gurkhas from that country are recruited in the Indian Army.

In a loose sense, all Nepalis whether those from Nepal or those long settled in India are referred to as Gurkhas, hence the name Gurkhaland for the objective that Subhash Ghisingh and his Gurkha National Liberation Front have before them. There has been a controversy whether the demand for a separate state of Gurkhaland is a separatist and secessionist one or it is just another agitation for a state of Nepali-speaking people in the Darjeeling District but within the Indian union. Mr Ghisingh has done nothing to remove this confusion. At some stage, he addressed appeals to the United Nations, some neighboring countries, and the big powers seeking broad support for his demands. This naturally caused concern within India that the movement had clear overtones of secessionism.

The West Bengal government and the ruling left-front of which the CPI-M is the major component are much concerned over the Gurkhaland agitation. Even if it means only a separate state within India, the Gurkhaland demand amounts to seeking a division of the West Bengal state. Darjeeling, the center of storm, is part and parcel of West Bengal. The state government has been calling for a clearcut statement of policy from the Government of India on the issue.

This came forth when the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, was in Calcutta a few days ago to conduct a unique exercise aimed at removing bottlenecks in the execution of development schemes in the state of West Bengal. Speaking to newsmen, Mr Gandhi said that there will be no division of West Bengal and indeed no more states would be created in India. He thus categorically ruled out any conceding of the demand for a separate Gurkhaland state and set at rest the fears in West Bengal that the central government's policy on the issue was equivocal. But having said that much, the prime minister also went on to clarify that the Gurkhaland demand was not antinational. In other words, in Delhi's view the movement is not secessionist. Both the ruling party in West Bengal and the state government have been strongly of the view that Mr Ghisingh's agitation is a threat to national unity. Several others, including some newspapers, also shared that view. Mr Rajiv Gandhi has made it clear that his government had carefully studied the evidence on the agitation and sees no reason to deem it as secessionist. His clarification that no more states will be carved out of the existing states will also help to put the issue in some perspective.

Official Arrested in Gujarat; Curfew To Be Relaxed

BK230343 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 23 Sep 86

[Text] In Gujarat, the Wadodra deputy mayor, Mr Nissar Hussain Syed, was arrested under the National Security Act [NSA] last night. The city police commissioner told our Ahmedabad correspondent that this is the second arrest under the NSA in connection with the recent disturbances in the city. He said about 120 others have been arrested.

Meanwhile, with the improvement in the situation, curfew will be further relaxed in all the curfew bound areas in the city for 8 hours from 0900 this morning.

Niger President Arrives on 1-Day Stopover

BK211606 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 21 Sep 86

[Text] Niger President Seyni Kountche arrived in Karachi this afternoon on his way back home after a visit to the Far East. Sind Governor retired Lieutenent General Jahandad Khan and others welcomed him at the airport. The Niger president will leave for home tomorrow morning after a night's stay in Karachi.

Talks With Ziaul Haq; Departs

BK221145 Karachi DAWN in English 16 Sep 86 p 1

[Text] Karachi, Sept 15 (APP) — President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Niger President Seyni Kountche held talks here on Monday morning.

The talks, that were held in an atmosphere of full understanding and fraternal cordiality, continued for about an hour and were also attended by the Niger foreign minister, Mr Sani Bako; and the director of the Niger Cabinet, Mr Hamadou.

The two leaders discussed international issues, with particular focus on the recent summit conference of the non-aligned countries, in Harare, which had highlighted the African struggle against apartheid and for liberation of Namibia.

The two presidents also discussed cooperation within the Organisation of Islamic Conference, of which both are members.

They reviewed bilateral relations which are based on close fraternal ties and the need for further strengthening of these relations.

President Zia briefed the President of Niger about Pakistan's relations with its neighbours and the situation in Afghanistan. President Kountche thanked President Ziaul Haq for warm hospitality extended to him and members of his entourage, and recalled his highly successful visit to Pakistan in 1983.

Later, President Kountche attended a luncheon given in his honour by President Ziaul Haq. Those who attended the luncheon, besides the entourage members, included Sind Governor Lt Gen (retd) Jahandad Khan, Sind Chief Minister Syed Ghous Ali Shah and provincial Cabinet members and notables.

Later, the President Kountche, accompanied by President Ziaul Haq and the Sind governor, also visited a special display centre set up at the Governor House. At display were goods and handicrafts made by Pakistani artisans. The Niger Cabinet members, who also visited the display centre, made searching queries and praised Pakistani artisans' skill.

Warm Welcome: Earlier, a warm welcome was accorded to Mr Seyni Kountche when he arrived here on Monday morning from Niger, on a brief visit, while on way to Japan and North Korea for a six day official tour. The president's 34-member entourage included four ministers, four media chiefs, and elite.

The President Ziaul Haq, accompanied by the Sind governor, the Sind chief minister, and provincial ministers, elected representatives, and high officials received the dignitary on his arrival. As Mr Kountche came out of the special Afrique Airways plane, two children, wearing national dress, presented bouquets. President Ziaul Haq was the first to embrace and shake hands with the Niger president, followed by Lt Gen (retd) Jahandad Khan, Syed Ghous Ali Shah, Mayor Abdus Sattar Afghani and provincial ministers, Alhaj Shamimuddin, Mr Ghous Baksh Mahar, Mr Akhtar Ali G. Kazi, Mr 'Zuhair Akram Nadim, Mr Athar Siddiqui, Mr Jawed Sultan Japanwala, Dr Shafqat Ali Shah Jamote and high officials and elected representatives, including noted Muslim Leaguers.

Mr Kountche's entourage included Cabinet ministers, media chiefs, and elite. The four Niger Cabinet members are: Dr Abdou Moudi, minister of public and social affairs; Mr Sani Koutoubi, minister of mines and energy; Mr al-Moustapha Soumaila, minister of planning; and Mr Sani Bako, minister for foreign affairs and national cooperation.

Departure: Mr Kountche left here on Monday evening for Tokyo after a 12-hour stay in the city. President Ziaul Haq, Lt Gen (retd) Jahandad Khan, Syed Ghous Ali Shah, elected representatives, Sind Cabinet members, high officials, and notables saw him off at Karachi Airport.

Later President Zia also left by air for Islamabad after a two-day stay in the city. He was seen off by Sind Governor Lt Gen. Jahandad Khan (retd), Sind Chief Minister Syed Ghous Ali Shah, provincial ministers, and high civil and military officials.

Bangladesh Minister Conveys Message to Ziaul Haq

BK220240 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Text] Bangladesh Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Abdul Mannan called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi yesterday evening and handed him a letter from President Ershad. He also conveyed a good-will message from the government and the people of Bangladesh to their Pakistani counterparts. They also exchanged views on a number of subjects, especially bilateral cooperation at Islamic organizations and forums.

Meets Junejo

BK221556 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Text] Religious affairs minister of Bangladesh, Maulana Abdul Mannan, called on Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in Rawalpindi today. He delivered a message of goodwill from the Bangladeshi president to the prime minister. He also held talks with the prime minister on the proposal for increasing the exchange of students and scholars between the two countries.

Yaqub Khan Reacts to Reagan's UNGA Speech

BK230249 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 23 Sep 86

[Text] Commenting on President Reagan's speech [at the UN General Assembly], Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has expressed satisfaction that the U.S. President has adopted a clear stand on the Afghanistan issue. Speaking to *Associated Press of Pakistan* in New York, the foreign minister said Reagan has clearly cautioned the international community that regional conflicts may turn into global level conflicts affecting world peace and security.

Noorani Dismisses Talks With Soviet Regime in Kabul

BK230337 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 23 Sep 86

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani has said a settlement of the Afghanistan problem w ll be possible only when the Soviet Union withdraws its forces from Afghanistan within 1 year. In an interview with REUTER, he dismissed the possibility of direct talks with the Soviet-installed regime in Kabul.

Former Indian Parliamentarian Meets Zain Noorani

BK220328 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Text] A former member of the Indian Parliament, Dr Subramanian Swamy, called on the minister of state for foreign affairs, Zain Noorani, in Islamabad yesterday and discussed matters relating to Pakistani-Indian relations. The minister of state commended Dr Swamy's role in efforts to promote good-neighborly relations between the two countries.

Reciprocating Zain Noorani's sentiments, the former Indian parliamentarian said the efforts to improve relations between the two countries should be continued without any slackness. The Indian ambassador, S.K. Singh, was also present on the occasion.

Editorial Views Indian Nuclear Practices

BK221015 Rawalpindi THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English
15 Sep 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Who Is Making the Bomb?"]

[Text] Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India has once again come up with the preposterous charge that Pakistan's nuclear programme is of a military nature and is in an advanced stage of developing nuclear weapons capability. He is also reported to have criticised the United States accusing it of being in the know of what Pakistan is doing and yet not taking any steps to prevent it.

Except of India and some others in its bandwagon, it is now internationally accepted that Pakistan's nuclear programme is directed toward peaceful purposes. The president, the prime minister, the foreign minister, and all others in the government have time and again reiterated at the highest forums that research is only for such purposes as the production of nuclear energy and for improving the socioeconomic conditions in the country. Pakistan has further clarified its intentions by suggesting the creation of a nuclear weapon free zone in South Asia, acceptance of international inspections, bilateral inspection of each other's nuclear facilities, and simultaneous signing of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) by India and Pakistan. The only reason why Pakistan has not signed the treaty so far is that India has persistently refused to sign it. That makes its designs obvious.

Nuclear scientist Prof. Gory Milhollin [name as published] of the U.S. has recently made a detailed analysis of India's nuclear capability and come up with the startling disclosure that it has the potential to build as many as 15 nuclear weapons a year. What India is up to is also borne out by the fact that it had recently spurned an offer of nuclear reactors made by the Soviet Union on the grounds that they did not fit into her nuclear programme which is based on reactors fed on heavy water and fuelled by natural uranium. Heavy water is used for chain reaction resulting in the production of plutonium. Although the production and sale of heavy water is under the strict watch of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), India was able to carry out a nuclear test in 1974 by illegally processing nuclear material from its Canadian built reactor. At present India is running three new reactors with heavy water which it claims is home made, and hence absolved of international inspection or control. According to Prof. Milhollin, and based on the figures released by India itself, the country is running its five reactors with a quantity of heavy water which is barely sufficient for three. It is therefore evident that it is either diverting heavy water from a reactor which is not under international inspection or is secretly importing it. Heavy water is a key ingredient in the running of nuclear reactors capable of producing weapons-grade plutonium which is a by-product in the reaction process used for nuclear weapons. India's capabilities and nuclear ambitions are therefore more than evident. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's latest tirade against Pakistan, besides being a part of the sustained campaign of vilification and malicious propaganda carried on by some quarters against it, is also meant to cover up India's own sinister designs to establish hegemony in the region. If India wants to prove its bonafides and get rid of the "scare" of Pakistan's nuclear capability, it should straightaway accept Pakistan's offer and sign a bilateral nuclear non-proliferation treaty, if not the NPT, simultaneously.

Afghans Bomb Teri Mangal, Peiwar Kotal

BK221217 Karachi DAWN in English 18 Sep 86 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 17: Two Afghan aircraf. violated Pakistan's airspace over Teri Mangal in Kurram Agency on Sept 16 at 1:27 a.m. and dropped two bombs killing two Afghan refugees and injuring one. A tractor and five shops were also damaged. At 11:30 a.m. six Afghan aircraft dropped 13 bombs and 40 rockets in the Peiwar Kotal area of Kurram Agency. Four Kurram militiamen were injured.

NEPAL

Border Committee Meeting With India Ends 20 Sep

BK201644 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Sep 86

[Text] The eighth round of Indo-Nepal joint technical boundary committee meeting concluded in Katmandu today. It has finalized the details of the work to be taken up during the current financial year. AIR [All India Radio] Katmandu correspondent says the agreed minutes were signed between the deputy surveyor general of India and the director general of the department of survey, Nepal. The 5-day meeting reviewed the progress made in the maintenance and repair of the boundary pillars. Our correspondent also says that the work on the entire Indo-Nepal border is likely to be completed in 3 years time.

SRI LANKA

TULF Accuses Government of Batticaloa Unrest

BK201629 Hong Kong AFP in English 1614 GMT 20 Sep 86

[Text] Madras, India, Sept 20 (AFP) — The Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), the main Tamil political party, accused the Sri Lankan Government Saturday of being responsible for the killing of Tamils in Batticaloa Thursday.

A TULF spokesman also threatened to withdraw from peace talks with Colombo if such incidents were repeated.

The spokesman told *Agence France-Presse* the TULF demanded the immediate withdrawal of police commandos from the villages west of Batticaloa in eastern Sri Lanka and supplies of food and other relief for those affected by the violence.

The TULF and other separatist Sri Lankan Tamil parties now based here claimed that 47 Tamils were massacred and more than 15,000 forced to flee their homes in the incidents Thursday.

(Official reports from Colombo have said 13 people were killed and 12 injured in Batticaloa Thursday and that all the casualties were from a car bomb explosion caused by Tamil militants.

(An indefinite curfew was clamped on the coastal town from Saturday, the Colombo reports said.)

The TULF spokesman said the alleged massacre followed a visit to the town by National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali. A 13-month-old baby and a Catholic priest were among the dead, he said.

"If the Sri Lankan Armed Forces continued to go on the rampage it would be impossible for it (TULF) to proceed with the ongoing negotiations to resolve the ethnic problem" the spokesman said following a meeting of the party's policy-making Politburo here.

The TULF has held two rounds of talks with President Junius Jayewardene's government in Colombo recently. The various militant groups, including the most hardline among them, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), have declined to participate in the talks.

The LTTE has maintained that the peace proposals Colombo has been discussing with the TULF were "totally unacceptable" to the militants fighting for an independent Tamil state.

The TULF has also found itself increasingly isolated from the militant Tamil groups because of its decision to open peace talks with the Sri Lankan Government.

Meanwhile, M.G. Ramachandran, chief minister of Tamil Nadu, the predominantly Tamil Indian state, has indefinitely postponed his return from medical treatment in the United States, officials here said Saturday. The federal Indian Government of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has been awaiting the return of Mr Ramachandran to persuade the Tamil militants to join the peace efforts. India has been mediating between Colombo and the separatist Tamil parties to help find a peaceful settlement.

The Eelam People's Revolutionary Front (EPRLF) said in a press release here Saturday that seven police commandos were killed in an attack by EPRLF guerrillas on Friday. The police commandos were said to be attached to the Thirukoil camp in Ambarai District. Two EPRLF guerrillas were reportedly injured in the attack.

Security Minister Denies Charges

BK210849 Hong Kong AFP in English 0733 GMT 21 Sep 86

[Excerpts] Colombo, Sept 21 (AFP) — Sri Lanka's national security minister denied Sunday a Tamil allegation that security forces had massacred 47 people in Batticaloa following a visit he made to the town last week.

The minister, Lalith Athulathmudali, also dismissed as ridiculous a claim by the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) that violence in the eastern coastal city had been triggered by the visit he made Monday.

He said the recent bloodshed had been triggered by a car-bomb attack Thursday, blamed by Colombo on the hardline Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which killed 13 people.

"Why doesn't the TULF ask the LTTE about the bombing without asking us?" Mr Athulathmudali said. [passage omitted]

A curfew that was imposed Saturday on Batticaloa was lifted temporarily for six hours Sunday morning, but later reimposed. It was to be lifted again at 5 a.m. Monday morning, official sources said. The curfew was imposed after grenades went off in the town Saturday, forcing shops to close and residents to stay indoors. Official sources said the grenades were exploded by Tamil extremists protesting the alleged police killings following the car-bomb attack.

In an interview, Mr Athulathmudali said the TULF's massacre claim contradicted reports from the Batticaloa citizens' committee which complained that about 10 people had been killed. Mr

Athulathmudali said extremists opposed to a political settlement were trying to disrupt civilian life and create panic in eastern Sri Lanka. He recalled that extremists had kept firing at military aircraft which had been using the air strip at Batticaloa. "We had to force them out of their positions so that we could use the aip strip without danger," he said.

Jayewardene, Gandhi To View Tamil Issue in Nov

BK211135 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Sep 86

[Text] A third summit between President J.R. Jayewardene, and the Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, will take place in Bangalore in November on the Tamil question when the two leaders attend the SARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit. Earlier, the two leaders met in New Delhi and in the Bahamas when they attended the Commonwealth summit conference.

Before the two leaders meet in Bangalore, ministerial sources expect that a third round of talks between the Sri Lankan president and the TULF Politburo would have taken place. The third session of talks, which was earlier scheduled to have been held at the end of this month, is now expected to be held in mid-October after further talks between the TULF and the extremist separatists who are also based in Madras.

Ministerial sources discounted news reports that the national security minister, Lalith Athulathmudali; the foreign affairs minister, Shahul Hameed; and the lands, land development, and the Mahaweli development minister, Gamini Dissanayake; would visit India for discussions with Rajiv Gandhi as speculation in the Indian press.

Minister on Proposals To Solve Ethnic Issue

BK201159 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Sep 86

[Text] The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, has said that the proposals put forward by the government to solve the ethnic problem will not create a federal system or divide the country. The provincial council system seeks to decentralize the administrative system within the unitary framework of the country. The minister was speaking at a conference of Ayurvedic [indigenous system of medicine] practitioners at Nawala yesterday. The minister warned that it is the terrorists who will gain if the people are divided into factions. He pointed out that the international community has expressed appreciation for the government's proposals. Even India has accepted that the Sri Lanka Government and the Sinhalese have been reasonable. The minister stated that if for some reason or the other, the terrorists reject the government's proposals this should not be a loss of face for the government. He added that the government cannot satisfy the demands of the Tamil people at the expense of the Sinhalese and Muslims.

Tehran Marks 6th Anniversary of Gulf War

Khamene'i Addresses Rally

LD221120 Tehran IRNA in English 0840 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 22, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i said here Monday "Iran will end the Iraqi-imposed war victoriously" and that the Iraqi Army, despite receiving military equipment received from East and West, "is doomed to fail".

Addressing a multitudinous gathering at Tehran's Azadi Square on the occasion of the 6th anniversary of the imposed war, President Khamene'i said that at the early stages of the war the world did not believe that the Iranians would be able to resist the aggression. But, he stressed, as the leader of the Islamic Revolution state (?what) had happened was for the benefit of the people and the revolution.

Khamene'i, who is also the head of the Supreme Defence Council, hailed resistance of the military and disciplinary forces in war fronts and said that at present these forces were more prepared and vigilant than ever. He called for greater readiness to fight against international arrogance and lauded measures taken by the Armed Forces, especially the Air Force, towards self-sufficiency.

The president referred to the military support of the East and the West for the Iraqi regime and said that contrary to such military aid the Iraqi Army has been suffering a low morale.

President Khamene'i concluded his speech amid the cries of the gathering shouting "Death of the U.S." National anthem of Iran was played and units of the Armed Forces paraded before the [word indistinct] Imam Khomeyni.

High-ranking military and civilian officials, a group of foreign military attaches in Iran, families of the martyrs, and theologians were also present in the ceremony.

Majlis Speaker Interviewed

LD212254 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 21 Sep 86

[Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker and the imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council, took part in a direct interview during the news bulletin of the First Network of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on Sunday night, on the occasion of the start of the 7th year of the imposed war. While expressing the hope that the war will end in favor of the righteous, Islam, the self-sacrificing people and the Islamic Revolution, he said: 'Of course, we did not want a war in the region; especially one between two Islamic countries. By right, this war was imposed on us. The war has brought us a great deal of bitterness and problems. But, there cannot be a war without bitterness, upset and trouble.

He added that we thank god for giving us, our nation and our leader success so that we can act in accordance with our Islamic, Koranic, and national duty. In this war, the strength of the Islamic Republic lies in popular support and self-reliance and also in possessing correct aims and being in the right. We are defending, and natuarlly the defender is in the right.

The history of the war has shown us that during this period, victory belongs to the one who stands on his own two feet and who has ideals. Those who rely on others are constantly in fear and worry about foreign support being cut.

He said: As Mr Khamene'i said in one of his speeches this year, we can mobilize five times the facilities as in the early days of the war, and in recent years, despite the economic pressure exerted on us from all sides, this is a sign of popular support. Therefore, we can see that our position is better in every respect than it was at the outset of the war because we are defending curselves. The enemy, however, is in a worse situation in every respect and is on the verge of defeat. Of course, I am not saying that it is the final defeat. But, what I am sure of is that the enemy is about to receive a decisive blow. God willing, we will fulfill our promise to the nation. The key to our success is everlasting popular support.

While praising the families of martyrs, POW's, combatants of Islam, and the missing and war refugees, he asked the nation to pay special attention to war week. He expressed the hope that the number of those leaving for the fronts would increase every day.

Tehran Residents Mark Anniversary

LD211841 Tehran IRNA in English 1828 GMT 21 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 22, IRNA — Cries of Allah-o Akbar (God is Great) rent the skies at exactly 21.00 hrs Sunday, as Tehran residents, gathered on the rooftops on the eve of the war week to mark the sixth anniversary of the Iraqi imposed war.

The air echoed with a vociferous din, which lasted for a quarter of an hour as citizens from all walks of life shouted their support for the continuation of the war till ultimate victory over the invaders.

September 22, 1980 was the day when Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn, backed by global imperialism sent his blood-thirsty Ba'thist forces across the border to attack the new-founded Islamic Republic.

The War Information Headquarters (WIH) has already announced Sept 22 to 28 as war commemoration week.

Similar scenes were repeated throughout the country, in every city, town, and hamlet as the Islamic nation entered the seventh year of the imposed war.

Khamene'i Inspects Iranian-Made Weapons

LD230650 Tehran IRNA in English 0640 GMT 23 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 23, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i inaugurated the exhibition on "war achievements" displaying different types of armaments and weaponry produced by the Iranian Army, the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), and other related organisations, here Monday afternoon.

The exhibition, opened at Tehran's prayer ground on the first day of the "War Week" marking the sixth anniversary of the Iraqi-imposed war, puts on display various kinds of arms and combat equipment produced by the Iranian inventors and experts in post-war period in a bid to self-sufficiency.

The president who is also head of the Supreme Defence Council visited pavilions including that of the Defence Ministry, IRGC Air Force, and the joint pavilion of the Armed Forces.

At Defence Ministry's pavilion the defence minister, Colonel Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali, presented a 9 mm caliber colt, to the president.

The defence minister speaking to IRNA said that items exhibited include domestically produced surface-to-surface missiles, 60 and 80 mm mortars, and guided aircraft missiles. Another item, he said, is a recently produced 9 mm caliber colt which has features of yuzi.

The head of the IRGC central headquarters, 'Ali Reza Afshar, told IRNA at the IRGC pavilion, that organising of the 500 combat battalions is at its final stage. After the war week, he added, the third phase of dispatching the popular forces to war fronts will start. The forces are undergoing military training in some 70 'Jerusalem bases', created by people, said Afshar.

Willingness To Negotiate With Future Iraq Regime Cited

LD221655 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 22, IRNA — Iran's ambassador in Dhaka Gholam Reza Yosefi said in a press conference here Monday the Islamic Republic of Iran would be willing to negotiate with whatever future regime acceptable to the Iraqi nation which comes to power in Iraq. He added that if that regime happens to be an Islamic one, the Islamic Republic may remit parts of the war reparations owed it by Iraq.

Speaking on the occasion of War Week, the Iranian ambassador told a group of domestic and foreign reporters that Iran's conditions for ending the war have not changed. "Iraq started the war ... and the Islamic Republic had no choice but to defend herself," Yosefi said. Muslim forces of Iran have the upper hand throughout the battlefronts, he said.

Yosefi said that Iran has mobilized more than 500 battalions which would soon determine the fate of the war.

The Iranian official noted that Iran has surface-to-surface missiles deployed along its borders with Iraq, which are capable of hitting Baghdad or any other target in Iraq.

Montazeri Speaks on 'Misuse' of Khomeyni Speeches

LD201319 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Sep 86

[Text] The Central News Unit reports: In his opening speech marking the beginning of the academic year in Qom's religious seminary this morning, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri indicated the need for scholars and clergymen going to the fronts to meet the fronts' propaganda and intellectual needs, pray for the people there, and thank the combatants, self-sacrificing young people and the clergy and other people who have kept the fronts warm and ready for offensives.

Ayatollah Montazeri graciously said: His holiness the imam — may his lofty shadow be extended — on various occasions issued the necessary and extremely beneficial guidelines and reminders which are extremely valuable and timely. However, certain half-baked people are unfortunately using his gracious commands as a means of dealing blows to or insulting individuals or religious wings. They are thereby sowing other types of differences at a time when the imam's blessed view has always been safeguarding the unity of all strata. He has always opposed and continues to oppose intensifying differences or insulting the clergy and attacking persons and clergymen. In his recent speech, too, which he graciously made in support and backing of the government, the main objective was this very same safeguarding of harmony and unity among all the strata, whether the government, the clergy, or other classes.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri continued: During my last meeting with his holiness, the imam graciously issued emphatic instructions on safeguarding the unity between the clergy and other strata. The imam considers backing and supporting the government as being just as essential as backing the clergy and personages, and it would displease him if someone were either insulting, issuing slogans against or, for instance, slandering them.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri pointed out: Various individuals' tastes and modes of thinking are and indeed should be different; the Holy Koran has never commanded that people should not have differences in thoughts and views and in the way they think. Everyone, of course, thinks in a special way and is free to do so and should not be forced to do otherwise. What the Koran has forbidden is squabbling and engaging in tugs-of-war culminating in the downfall and destruction of the two squabbling parties. Therefore, the imam's aim has also been to prevent differences of opinion from degenerating into squabbles, tugs-of-war, and attacks against one another. Individuals should pay heed that the appropriate and timely behests of his holiness the imam should not be misused. Things should not be such that everyone would make use of certain sayings of the imam to further his own ends, as in the case of utilizing similar Koranic verses.

In connection with the importance of unity and its role in deciding the victory of the revolution, and referring to the long-standing plot by the colonialists and Islam's enemies in sowing discord and undermining the unity of Muslims, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri continued: Were the Muslims — 1 billion strong, enjoying Islam's moral strength and power and rich resources and mineral deposits, instrumental in turning the wheels of the world economy — not beset with such differences fomented by colonialism's subservient pawns and the corrupt heads of a great many Islamic countries, they would not be in such a situation. Observe how the Muslims of Lebanon and Palestine are afflicted by the Zionists! In Afghanistan they are beset by the Russians, and in India Muslims are being killed daily in droves by the Hindus. There is no one to prevent this massacre! And in Pakistan, observe how

every year during the days of 'Ashura and the mournings for the Arch Martyr [Imam Husayn], what bloody clashes are orchestrated by the agents of Zionism and the United States or by the adherents of the Wahhabi sect [which has its roots in Saudi Arabia]. This is at a time when we know that no wars or clashes mar relations between Shi'ites and Sunnites. These clashes and fights are fomented either by the Wahhabi sect or by agents subservient to the United States in the Islamic countries for their own colonialist interests. Anyhow, these differences, wherever and in whatever form they may be, could only cause the enfeeblement of Islam and the Koran, the weakening of Muslims and the domination of the blasphemers and their minions over Muslims.

Majlis Speaker Inspects Mock Al-Faw Maneuvers
LD221922 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 22, IRNA — Majlis (Parliament) speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani inspected mock maneuvers of the liberation of Al-Faw operations, conducted at Eram park, here Monday.

The maneuvers was conducted on a model of Iraq's Al-Faw peninsula constructed across the artificial lake of the park.

The strategic Iraqi city of Al-Faw was liberated in the "Val-Farj-8" operations launched by Muslim forces of Iran on 9 February.

Addresses Air Force Personnel
LD201941 Tehran IRNA in English 1836 GMT 20 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 20, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran is powerful and independent and the superpowers and others can not change their policies, while the former regime was so shaky and dependent that the U.S. and the British Embassy (in Tehran) even ordered the defunct shah to go.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who is Imam Khomeyni's representative at the Supreme Defence Council, made the remarks in his address to a group of air force personnel of Iran's Armed Forces who called on him here Saturday.

The Majlis speaker added that, the superpowers are not only allowed no say in Iranian affairs, but that in Lebanon, too, countered and told that they themselves are the terrorists.

He went on to say that Iran is a great power, and that were it not for the superpowers fear of it they would have resorted to all manner of adventurism in the Persian Gulf.

Rafsanjani noted that the Islamic Republic has proved that it is quite powerful and can check all plots. All their plots have been foiled, he added.

The worst measure taken by them was the oil price conspiracy aimed at crippling Iran's war machine, said Rafsanjani. But in response Iran has mobilized 600 battalions instead of 300, he added.

The victories of Iran's Islamic combatants in Al-Faw and Mehran, Rafsanjani noted, proved their combat power superiority over the Iraqis.

Rafsanjani further said that after its victory in the war, Iran would utilize all its experiences in reconstruction of the country.

Referring to the country's economic situation and oil exports the Majlis speaker said that not only does the country not have any debt but it has rather kept all its underground resources for future generations. "Instead of producing six million B.P.D. [barrels per day] of oil, Iran exports and average of 1.5 to 2 million B.P.D." said Rafsanjani.

Musavi Addresses Theologians on Gulf War
LD221841 Tehran IRNA in English 1836 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 22, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here Monday that once adventurism and unsanctioned use of the Persian Gulf waters should discontinue, the interests of all Persian Gulf countries would be safeguarded without any problem.

Speaking to a group of visiting theologians from Tehran province, the premier said that the Persian Gulf would not be secure for any country if the reactionary governments of the region and the Ba'thist regime or any foreign power should create any encumberance for Iran at the Persian Gulf.

Musavi noted that landmark developments have occured in the war owing to the resistance of the Iranian people. The developments, he said, have made the world people review their evaluation of the political status and military power of the Baghdad government. The prime minister stressed that today political circles the world over respect Iran and that the Islamic Revolution has attained its due status throughout the world mainly because of the rigid resistance of the Iranian people in the war.

Premier Musavi said that the pressures which "the global arrogance" has tried to bring on the Islamic Republic, have all been neutralized by the Iranian people involving a minimal foreign exchange expenditure. Iran, he emphasised, has gained valuable experiences for recasting the country's economic system for a long time depending solely on oil.

The prime minister said that the Iranian culture does not allow for compromise with criminals and invaders. He said the Islamic criteria form the underlying foundation of the verdict of the masses in Iran.

Jailed Tudeh Sympathizers Repent, Condemn Tudeh Party
LD210841 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 21 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 21, IRNA — Most women inmates of Tehran's Evin Prison will be released soon, said the head of the organization in charge of prison affairs, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansari, here Saturday. He said that in the recent meeting of Ayatollah Montazeri with Imam Khomeyni, the imam had stressed that imprisoned members of grouplets should be pardoned as soon as

officials were convinced that their release would not harm the society.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansari added that the criteria for the pardon of members of counterrevolutionary grouplets had changed in comparison with the past. Although there may still be certain ambiguities for some inmates about the Islamic Republic system, as long as prison officials were confident that release of these prisoners would not harm the society, the prisoners would be freed.

He said that a four-member commission comprising prison warden, prosecutor's representative, information minister's representative, and head of the cultural and educational affairs, study every single case and supervise over the pardoning.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansari said that at present most members of grouplets have been released, adding that during the past two years almost half of these inmates have either been discharged or their sentences have been commuted. He stressed that by putting offenders in prison the judiciary did not aim at taking revenge but rather wanted clear the society from the undesirable elements and pave the way for moral and social rehabilitation of such elements.

On the repentance of prisoners from their past deeds, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansari cited the example of the sympathisers of the outlawed Tudeh Party. These elements who used to defend their ideology even in prison, condemned the party after listening to a speech delivered by the ideologues, Ehsan Tabari and Nureddin Kianuri, in which they revealed the true nature of the party. He added that the Tudeh Party leaders and 18 officials of its various branches are writing a series of books on the history of the party and its treacherous activities.

Referring to various measures taken for the welfare of prisoners, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansari said that upon the approval of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution and with the cooperation of professors of the Free Islamic University, various courses would be set up for inmates of prisons.

Groups Continue To Depart for Battle Fronts

Karaj District Troops Depart

LD191301 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 18 Sep 86

[Excerpts] A Central News Unit correspondent reports on the dispatch of popular forces from Karaj District to the war fronts: [passage omitted]

This evening, four battalions of skilled, redispatch, technician, and support units of Karaj District's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps mobilization forces and also from Taleqan, Shahriar, Savojbolagh, Robat Karim, Eshtehard, and Astara left for the fronts of the war of right against wrong. The group is known as the Special Moharram Convoy and it left after some ceremonies. [passage omitted]

9 More Battalions Depart

LD211454 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 21 Sep 86

[Central News Unit correspondent report]

[Text] On the eve of the 6th anniversary of the holy defense, and together with the extensive dispatch of forces to the theaters of war, the third Semnan Labbayk Ya Imam [We Respond to you, O Imam] convoy, entitled special convoy of 'Ashura Epic Makers, composed of nine combat-engineering battalions from Shahrud, Semnan, Garmsar and Damghan, today at noon departed for the battlefronts of the war of right against wrong. They took part in an auspicious parade and were seen off with the resounding and revolutionary slogans of "War, War, Until Victory," and "Death to the United States" of the Hezbollah ummah and the ever-vigilant Semnan residents.

Another battalion of untrained forces from various districts and towns of Semnan Province were today dispatched to centers to receive military training, so that they may fight shoulder to shoulder with the other Islamic combatants against the Zionist forces of Iraq and, God willing, finish the war as soon as possible.

Technical Units Depart

NC220828 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Text] On the beginning of the imposed War Week, a battalion of technical and specialized forces of Hamadan Province's reconstruction Jihad known as the 2d Ansar Battalion left for the fronts of the imposed war yesterday. Also, the Qa'em Defense Battalion consisting of Yazd Province employees was given a warm farewell by inhabitants of the city and left for the fronts from the province's Basij headquarters.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Kurdistan Cleared of Rebel Elements

LD220925 Tehran IRNA in English 0855 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan Prov., Sept 22, IRNA — The Kurdistan region has been completely cleared from counterrevolutionary elements, a commander of Hamzeh Seyyed al-Shohada headquarters, told IRNA here Monday.

Interviewed on the occasion of the "War Week" marking the sixth anniversary of the Iraqi-imposed war, Sept 22, Commander Jalali talked about plots of imperialist powers and their agents in Kurdistan and Azarbayjan Provinces. All these ominous plots, he said, have been thwarted and counterrevolutionary elements have no base and support in Kurdestan.

So far, he added, more than 9,000 of those misled and deceived by counterrevolutionary grouplets have repented their action and have returned to Islam.

Head of the Basij force of the Hamzeh headquarters Shakib Mehr, praised the role of Basij volunteers in battle fields of the Iraqi-imposed war.

Communique No 2602

LD221638 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 22, IRNA — An undetermined number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and 16 enemy vehicles, one munitions dump, and several gun emplacements destroyed throughout the fronts Sunday when they were hit by Iranian artillery fire, said a military communique here Monday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2602 said that Iran's Navy intercepted and inspected two foreign cargo ships and oil tankers sailing under foreign flag in the Strait of Hormuz Sunday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied that they were not carrying any war-related goods for Iraq.

A cargo ship suspected of carrying goods for Iraq was intercepted and escorted to a southern Iranian port for thorough inspection on Saturday.

Iraqi warplanes attempting to raid the city of Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, at 09:15 hours (05:45 hours GMT) Monday were forced to flee by heavy Iranian anti-aircraft fire.

A convoy of Iranian patrols seized a large quantity of Iraqi military hardware and transferred it to Muslim combatants' positions on Sunday.

In the western fronts, Muslim forces of Iran heavily shelled Iraqi positions killing or wounding a considerable number of Iraqi soldiers and setting afire 12 enemy vehicles and one munitions dump. Enemy operations were also disrupted.

The military communique said that four vehicles and several gun emplacements of Iraqi forces were destroyed in parts of the southern fronts Sunday as they were shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie forces.

In the southern fronts, exchange of artillery fire raged more heavily in Kushk and Talaiyeh operational theaters, and Iranian forces continued to pound Iraqi positions and suppressed enemy patrols on Sunday.

Iranian artillery heavily pounded Iraqi positions in Piranshah, Marivan, and Sar Dasht Sunday setting ablaze parts of them and destroying enemy supply routes.

Movements of Iraqi vehicles in Hoseyniyeh, southern fronts, and reconnaissance flights of enemy helicopters in Panjwin, northwestern fronts, were checked on Sunday, according to the communique.